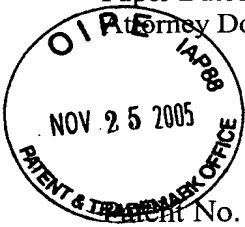


Patent No. 6,905,041  
Paper Dated: November 22, 2005  
Attorney Docket No. 2204-002012

DAC  
JFW



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent No. : 6,905,041  
Patentees : **Hirofumi TAKETSU et al.**  
Issued: : June 14, 2005  
Title : **FUEL TANK MADE FROM  
ALUMINUM COATED STEEL SHEET**  
Group Art Unit : 2661  
Examiner : Steven Blount  
Customer No. : 28289

MAIL STOP PETITIONS  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PETITION FOR SUSPENSION OF RULES (37 C.F.R. § 1.183)**

Sir:

Patentees hereby petition for the waiving of the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 3.81 so that a Certificate of Correction may be granted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.323. Due to a good faith and inadvertent error made by Applicants in Item 3 of the Issue Fee Transmittal, the name of the second assignee was omitted.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 22, 2005.

Mary Jo Sinicrope  
(Name of Person Mailing Paper)

Mary Jo Sinicrope  
Signature

11/22/2005  
Date

11/28/2005 NNGUYEN1 00000031 6905041

01 FC:1464

130.00 OP

The assignees are: --Nisshin Steel Co., Ltd. and Toyota Jidosha Kabushiki Kaisha-- and each has a place of business in Tokyo, Japan. The Assignment was recorded on March 23, 2001, at Reel/Frame 011736/0671. A copy of the Assignment is enclosed herewith.

Patentees request that the file be forwarded to the Certificate of Correction Branch for the issuance of a Certificate of Correction. A Request for Certificate of Correction, Form PTO/SB/44, and check for the requisite fee in the amount of \$100.00 are submitted concurrently herewith.

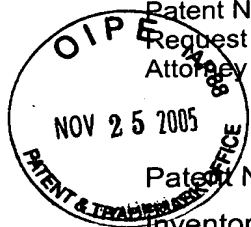
The required petition fee in the amount of \$130.00 as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(h) is also enclosed herewith. The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-0650.

Respectfully submitted,

THE WEBB LAW FIRM

By 

Russell D. Orkin  
Registration No. 25,363  
Attorney for Applicants  
700 Koppers Building  
436 Seventh Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219-1818  
Telephone: 412-471-8815  
Facsimile: 412-471-4094



Patent No. 6,905,041  
Request for Cert. of Correction dated November 22, 2005  
Attorney Docket No. 2204-002012

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent No. : 6,905,041 Confirmation No. 1204  
Inventors : Taketsu et al.  
Issued : June 14, 2005  
Title : Fuel Tank Made From Aluminum Coated Steel Sheet  
Examiner : Steve Blount  
Customer No. : 28289

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION OF PATENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

ATTENTION: Decision and Certificate of Correction  
Branch of the Patent Issue Division

Sir:

In accordance with 35 U.S.C. §§254 and 255, we attach hereto Form PTO/SB/44 and a copy of proof of errors and request that a Certificate of Correction be issued in the above-identified patent. The following errors appear in the patent as printed:

- 1) Face of the patent, See Item (73) Assignee, : after "**Nisshin Steel Co., Ltd.**, Tokyo (JP)", add -- **Toyota Jidosha Kabushiki Kaisha**, Tokyo (JP) --  
(See Assignment Recordation Form dated July 12, 2001 and Assignment which was recorded March 23, 2001. The second Assignee was not listed on the Issue Fee Payment Transmittal and was not printed on the issued patent.)
- 2) Face of Patent, See (56) References Cited, FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS, the sixth reference in Column 2, "JP 10272582 10/1997" should read -- JP 10272582 10/**1998** --  
(See IDS dated 02/05/2002 and the International Search Report.)
- 3) Column 15, Line 19, Claim 1, "the resin film is having" should read -- the resin film having --  
(See the Amendment filed 02/05/2004, page 3, Claim 1, Line 6.)

Error No. 1) is an error made by Applicants. A check for \$100.00 is attached to cover the fee for correction of Applicants' mistake. The remaining errors are printing errors.

Respectfully submitted,  
THE WEBB LAW FIRM

By 

Russell D. Orkin  
Registration No. 25,363  
Attorney for Registrants  
700 Koppers Building  
436 Seventh Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1845  
Telephone: (412) 471-8815  
Facsimile: (412) 471-4094

11/28/2005 NNGUYEN1 00000031 6905041

02 FC:1811

100.00 DP



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office

ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND COMMISSIONER  
OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

JULY 12, 2001

PTAS



\*101702141A\*

WEBB ZIESENHEIM LOGSDON ET AL  
RUSSELL D. ORKIN  
700 KOPPERS BUILDING  
436 SEVENTH AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH PA 15219-1818

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
NOTICE OF RECORDATION OF ASSIGNMENT DOCUMENT

THE ENCLOSED DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RECORDED BY THE ASSIGNMENT DIVISION OF THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE. A COMPLETE MICROFILM COPY IS AVAILABLE AT THE ASSIGNMENT SEARCH ROOM ON THE REEL AND FRAME NUMBER REFERENCED BELOW.

PLEASE REVIEW ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS NOTICE. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS RECORDATION NOTICE REFLECTS THE DATA PRESENT IN THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK ASSIGNMENT SYSTEM. IF YOU SHOULD FIND ANY ERRORS OR HAVE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS NOTICE, YOU MAY CONTACT THE EMPLOYEE WHOSE NAME APPEARS ON THIS NOTICE AT 703-308-9723. PLEASE SEND REQUEST FOR CORRECTION TO: U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE, ASSIGNMENT DIVISION, BOX ASSIGNMENTS, CG-4, 1213 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY, SUITE 320, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231.

RECORDATION DATE: 03/23/2001

REEL/FRAME: 011736/0671  
NUMBER OF PAGES: 3

BRIEF: ASSIGNMENT OF ASSIGNOR'S INTEREST (SEE DOCUMENT FOR DETAILS).

ASSIGNOR:

TAKETSU, HIROFUMI

DOC DATE: 11/10/2000

ASSIGNOR:

YAMAMOTO, MASAYA

DOC DATE: 11/10/2000

ASSIGNOR:

IZUMI, KEIJI

DOC DATE: 11/10/2000

ASSIGNOR:

SUDO, SHUNTARO

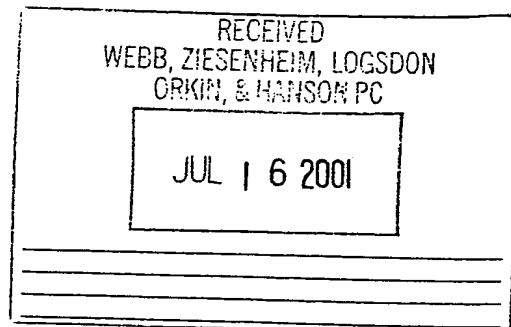
DOC DATE: 11/10/2000

ASSIGNEE:

NISSHIN STEEL CO., LTD.  
4-1, MARUNOUCHI 3-CHOME, CHIYODA-KU  
TOKYO 100-8366, JAPAN

ASSIGNEE:

TOYOTA JIDOSHA KABUSHIKI KAISHA  
1, TOYOTA-CHO, TOYOTA-SHI  
AICHI-KEN, 471-8571, JAPAN



011736/0671 PAGE 2

SERIAL NUMBER: 09787998  
PATENT NUMBER:

FILING DATE: 03/23/2001  
ISSUE DATE:

DOROTHY BASMA, PARALEGAL  
ASSIGNMENT DIVISION  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC RECORDS

3123101  
A/D P/E  
NOV 25 2005  
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE  
FORM PTO-1595  
(Rev. 6-93)  
OMB No. 0651-0111 (exp. 6-04)  
Tab settings

05-02-2001



101702141

JCOE c'd PCT/PTO 09/787998  
23 MAR 2001

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office  
SHEET

To the Assistant Commissioner for Patents:  
Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof.

1. Name of conveying party(ies):

Hirofumi TAKETSU  
Masaya YAMAMOTO  
Keiji IZUMI  
Shuntaro SUDO

Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached? ☐ Yes ☒ No

3. Nature of conveyance:

- ☒ Assignment ☐ Merger  
☐ Security Agreement ☐ Change of Name  
☐ Other

Execution Date: November 10, 2000

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies)

Name: NISSHIN STEEL CO., LTD.

Street Address: 4-1, Marunouchi 3-chome,

Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8366 Japan ; and

Name: TOYOTA JIDOSHA KABUSHIKI KAISHA

Street Address: 1, Toyota-cho, Toyota-shi,

Aichi-ken, 471-8571 Japan

Additional name(s) & address(es) attached? ☐ Yes ☒ No

4. Application number(s) or patent number(s):

If this document is being filed together with a new application,  
the execution date of the application is: November 10, 2000

A. Patent Application No.(s)

4581 40.00 (JP)

B. Patent No.(s)

Additional numbers attached? ☐ Yes ☒ No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence  
concerning document should be mailed:

Name: Russell D. Orkin

Internal Address: Webb Ziesenheim Logsdon

Orkin & Hanson, P.C.

Street Address: 700 Koppers Building

436 Seventh Avenue

City: Pittsburgh State: PA ZIP: 15219-1818

6. Total number of applications and  
patents involved: 1

7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41).....\$ 40.00

☒ Enclosed

☐ Authorized to be charged to deposit account

8. Deposit account number:

(Attach triplicate copy of this page if paying by deposit account)

DO NOT USE THIS SPACE

9. Statement and signature.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy  
is a true copy of the original document.

Russell D. Orkin, Reg. No. 25,363

Name of Person Signing

*Russell D. Orkin*

Signature

March 23, 2001

Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments and document 3

Mail documents to be recorded with required cover sheet information to:  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Office of Public Records, Crystal Gateway 4, Room 335  
Washington, D.C. 20231

## ASSIGNMENT DEED

This assignment is applicable to an invention entitled (Invention Title) AN AL-COATED STEEL SHEET FOR USE AS A FUEL TANK AND A METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A FUEL TANK THEREFROM.

The PATENT RIGHTS referred to in this agreement are:

- (check one) ☐ a patent application for this invention, executed by the ASSIGNOR(S) concurrently with this agreement.
- ☐ U.S. patent application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, issued \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☒ a U.S. patent application based on PCT International Application No. PCT/JP99/05727 filed on (date) 18.10.1999 (U.S. patent application serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, if known).

The PATENT RIGHTS also include all divisions, reissues, continuations and extensions of the patents and patent applications identified above.

The PATENT RIGHTS assigned under this agreement are:

- (check one) ☒ U.S. patent rights only.
- ☐ worldwide patent rights. In this case, the assignee shall have the right to claim the benefit of the filing date of any U.S. patent application identified above.

The ASSIGNOR(S) referred to in this agreement is (or are):

(Full name of sole or first inventor) Hirofumi TAKETSU

(Address) c/o Steel & Technology Development Laboratories, Nisshin Steel Co., Ltd.,

5, Ishizu-Nishimachi, Sakai-shi, Osaka 592-8332 Japan

(Full name of second joint inventor, if any) Masaya YAMAMOTO

(Address) c/o Steel & Technology Development Laboratories, Nisshin Steel Co., Ltd.,

5, Ishizu-Nishimachi, Sakai-shi, Osaka 592-8332 Japan

(Full name of third joint inventor, if any) Keiji IZUMI

(Address) c/o Steel & Technology Development Laboratories, Nisshin Steel Co., Ltd.,

5, Ishizu-Nishimachi, Sakai-shi, Osaka 592-8332 Japan

(Full name of fourth joint inventor, if any) Shuntaro SUDO

(Address) c/o Toyota Jidosha Kabushiki Kaisha, 1, Toyota-cho, Toyota-shi, Aichi-ken, 471-8571 Japan

The ASSIGNEES referred to in this agreement are:

I. (Name of First Assignee) NISSHIN STEEL CO., LTD.

(Address of Assignee) 4-1, Marunouchi 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8366 Japan

The first ASSIGNEE is:

- (check one) ☐ An individual.
- ☐ A Partnership.
- ☒ A Corporation of Japan.
- (state or country)

II. (Name of Second Assignee) TOYOTA JIDOSHA KABUSHIKI KAISHA

(Address of Assignee) 1, Toyota-cho, Toyota-shi, Aichi-ken, 471-8571 Japan

The second ASSIGNEE is:

- (check one) ☐ An individual.
- ☐ A Partnership.
- ☒ A Corporation of Japan.
- (state or country)

The ASSIGNOR(S), in consideration of \$1.00 paid by the ASSIGNEE, and other good and valuable consideration, receipt of which is acknowledged, have and do hereby assign the following rights to the ASSIGNEE, its successors and assigns:

the full and exclusive right to the invention;

the entire right, title and interest in and to the PATENT RIGHTS;

the right to sue and recover for any past infringement; and

the right to claim priority under 35 USC 119, based on any earlier foreign applications for this invention.

As to all U.S. patent applications assigned under this agreement, the ASSIGNOR(S) hereby authorize(s) and request(s) the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to issue all Letters Patent to the ASSIGNEE as the assignee of the entire right, title and interest, for the sole use and enjoyment of said ASSIGNEE, its successors and assigns.

Further, the ASSIGNOR(S) agree(s) to communicate to said ASSIGNEE, or its representatives, any facts known to the ASSIGNOR(S) respecting said invention, and testify in any legal proceedings, sign all lawful papers, execute all divisional, continuation, substitute, renewal, re-examination and reissue applications, execute all necessary assignment papers to cause any and all Letters Patent to be issued to said ASSIGNEE, make all rightful oaths and generally do everything necessary or desirable to aid said ASSIGNEE, its successors and assigns, to obtain and enforce proper protection for said invention.

Hirofumi Taketsu

(Signature of sole or first inventor)

10, 11, 2000  
(Date)

Masaya Yamamoto

(Signature of second inventor)

10, 11, 2000  
(Date)

Keiji Ozumi

(Signature of third inventor)

10, 11, 2000  
(Date)

Shuntaro Suo

(Signature of fourth inventor)

10, 11, 2000  
(Date)



**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

Page 1 of 1

PATENT NO. : 6,905,041  
APPLICATION NO. : 09/787,998  
ISSUE DATE : June 14, 2005  
INVENTORS : Taketsu et al.

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Face of Patent, See Item (73) Assignee: after "Nisshin Steel Co., Ltd., Tokyo (JP)", add -- **Toyota Jidosha Kabushiki Kaisha, Tokyo (JP)** --

Face of Patent, See (56) References Cited, FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS, the sixth reference in Column 2, "JP 10272582 10/1997" should read -- JP 10272582 10/1998 --

Column 15, Line 19, Claim 1, "the resin film is having" should read -- the resin film having --

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER: The Webb Law Firm  
700 Koppers Building  
436 Seventh Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1845

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323, and 1.324. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-2450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

*If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select Option 2.*



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office

ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND COMMISSIONER  
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Washington, D.C. 20231

JULY 12, 2001

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WEBB ZIESENHEIM LOGSDON ET AL  
RUSSELL D. ORKIN  
700 KOPPERS BUILDING  
436 SEVENTH AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH PA 15219-1818



\*101702141A\*

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
NOTICE OF RECORDATION OF ASSIGNMENT DOCUMENT

THE ENCLOSED DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RECORDED BY THE ASSIGNMENT DIVISION OF THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE. A COMPLETE MICROFILM COPY IS AVAILABLE AT THE ASSIGNMENT SEARCH ROOM ON THE REEL AND FRAME NUMBER REFERENCED BELOW.

PLEASE REVIEW ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS NOTICE. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS RECORDATION NOTICE REFLECTS THE DATA PRESENT IN THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK ASSIGNMENT SYSTEM. IF YOU SHOULD FIND ANY ERRORS OR HAVE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS NOTICE, YOU MAY CONTACT THE EMPLOYEE WHOSE NAME APPEARS ON THIS NOTICE AT 703-308-9723. PLEASE SEND REQUEST FOR CORRECTION TO: U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE, ASSIGNMENT DIVISION, BOX ASSIGNMENTS, CG-4, 1213 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY, SUITE 320, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231.

RECORDATION DATE: 03/23/2001

REEL/FRAME: 011736/0671  
NUMBER OF PAGES: 3

BRIEF: ASSIGNMENT OF ASSIGNOR'S INTEREST (SEE DOCUMENT FOR DETAILS).

ASSIGNOR:  
TAKETSU, HIROFUMI

DOC DATE: 11/10/2000

ASSIGNOR:  
YAMAMOTO, MASAYA

DOC DATE: 11/10/2000

ASSIGNOR:  
IZUMI, KEIJI

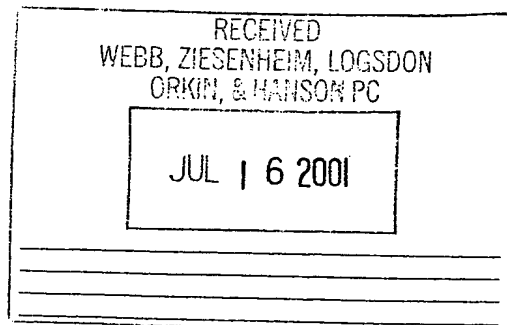
DOC DATE: 11/10/2000

ASSIGNOR:  
SUDO, SHUNTARO

DOC DATE: 11/10/2000

ASSIGNEE:  
NISSHIN STEEL CO., LTD.  
4-1, MARUNOUCHI 3-CHOME, CHIYODA-  
KU  
TOKYO 100-8366, JAPAN

ASSIGNEE:  
TOYOTA JIDOSHA KABUSHIKI KAISHA  
1, TOYOTA-CHO, TOYOTA-SHI  
AICHI-KEN, 471-8571, JAPAN



011736/0671 PAGE 2

SERIAL NUMBER: 09787998  
PATENT NUMBER:

FILING DATE: 03/23/2001  
ISSUE DATE:

DOROTHY BASMA, PARALEGAL  
ASSIGNMENT DIVISION  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC RECORDS

3/23/01 A/D 581.40

JCOE

c'd PCT/PTO

09/787998  
23 MAR 2001

05-02-2001



101702141

FORM PTO-1595

(Rev. 6-93)

NOV 25 2005

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OMB No. 0651-0011 (exp. 4-04)

Tab settings

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

SHEET

Patent and Trademark Office

To the Assistant Commissioner for Patents:  
Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof.

1. Name of conveying party(ies):

Hirofumi TAKETSU  
Masaya YAMAMOTO  
Keiji IZUMI  
Shuntaro SUDO

Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached? ☐ Yes ☒ No

3. Nature of conveyance:

- ☒ Assignment ☐ Merger  
☐ Security Agreement ☐ Change of Name  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Execution Date: November 10, 2000

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies)

Name: NISSHIN STEEL CO., LTD.

Street Address: 4-1, Marunouchi 3-chome,

Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8366 Japan ; and

Name: TOYOTA JIDOSHA KABUSHIKI KAISHA

Street Address: 1, Toyota-cho, Toyota-shi,

Aichi-ken, 471-8571 Japan

Additional name(s) & address(es) attached? ☐ Yes ☒ No

4. Application number(s) or patent number(s):

If this document is being filed together with a new application,  
the execution date of the application is: November 10, 2000

A. Patent Application No.(s)

581

40.00 02

B. Patent No. (s)

Additional numbers attached? ☐ Yes ☒ No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:

Name: Russell D. Orkin

Internal Address: Webb Ziesenheim Logsdon

Orkin & Hanson, P.C.

Street Address: 700 Koppers Building

436 Seventh Avenue

City: Pittsburgh State: PA ZIP: 15219-1818

6. Total number of applications and patents involved: 1

7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41).....\$ 40.00

☒ Enclosed

☐ Authorized to be charged to deposit account

8. Deposit account number:

(Attach triplicate copy of this page if paying by deposit account)

DO NOT USE THIS SPACE

9. Statement and signature.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.

Russell D. Orkin, Reg. No. 25,363

Name of Person Signing

*Russell D. Orkin*

Signature

March 23, 2001

Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments and document 3

Mail documents to be recorded with required cover sheet information to:  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Office of Public Records, Crystal Gateway 4, Room 335  
Washington, D.C. 20231

## ASSIGNMENT DEED

This assignment is applicable to an invention entitled (Invention Title) AN AL-COATED STEEL SHEET FOR USE AS A FUEL TANK AND A METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A FUEL TANK THEREFROM.

The PATENT RIGHTS referred to in this agreement are:

- (check one) ☐ a patent application for this invention, executed by the ASSIGNOR(S) concurrently with this agreement.  
☐ U.S. patent application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, issued \_\_\_\_\_.  
☒ a U.S. patent application based on PCT International Application  
No. PCT/JP99/05727 filed on (date) 18.10.1999 (U.S. patent application serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, if known).

The PATENT RIGHTS also include all divisions, reissues, continuations and extensions of the patents and patent applications identified above.

The PATENT RIGHTS assigned under this agreement are:

- (check one) ☒ U.S. patent rights only.  
☐ worldwide patent rights. In this case, the assignee shall have the right to claim the benefit of the filing date of any U.S. patent application identified above.

The ASSIGNOR(S) referred to in this agreement is (or are):

(Full name of sole or first inventor) Hirofumi TAKETSU

(Address) c/o Steel & Technology Development Laboratories, Nisshin Steel Co., Ltd.,  
5, Ishizu-Nishimachi, Sakai-shi, Osaka 592-8332 Japan

(Full name of second joint inventor, if any) Masaya YAMAMOTO

(Address) c/o Steel & Technology Development Laboratories, Nisshin Steel Co., Ltd.,  
5, Ishizu-Nishimachi, Sakai-shi, Osaka 592-8332 Japan

(Full name of third joint inventor, if any) Keiji IZUMI

(Address) c/o Steel & Technology Development Laboratories, Nisshin Steel Co., Ltd.,  
5, Ishizu-Nishimachi, Sakai-shi, Osaka 592-8332 Japan

(Full name of fourth joint inventor, if any) Shuntaro SUDO

(Address) c/o Toyota Jidosha Kabushiki Kaisha, 1, Toyota-cho, Toyota-shi, Aichi-ken, 471-8571 Japan

The ASSIGNEES referred to in this agreement are:

I. (Name of First Assignee) NISSHIN STEEL CO., LTD.

(Address of Assignee) 4-1, Marunouchi 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8366 Japan

The first ASSIGNEE is:

- (check one) ☐ An individual.  
☐ A Partnership.  
☒ A Corporation of Japan.  
(state or country)

II. (Name of Second Assignee) TOYOTA JIDOSHA KABUSHIKI KAISHA

(Address of Assignee) 1, Toyota-cho, Toyota-shi, Aichi-ken, 471-8571 Japan

The second ASSIGNEE is:

- (check one) ☐ An individual.  
☐ A Partnership.  
☒ A Corporation of Japan.  
(state or country)

The ASSIGNOR(S), in consideration of \$1.00 paid by the ASSIGNEE, and other good and valuable consideration, receipt of which is acknowledged, have and do hereby assign the following rights to the ASSIGNEE, its successors and assigns:

the full and exclusive right to the invention;

the entire right, title and interest in and to the PATENT RIGHTS;

the right to sue and recover for any past infringement; and

the right to claim priority under 35 USC 119, based on any earlier foreign applications for this invention.

As to all U.S. patent applications assigned under this agreement, the ASSIGNOR(S) hereby authorize(s) and request(s) the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to issue all Letters Patent to the ASSIGNEE as the assignee of the entire right, title and interest, for the sole use and enjoyment of said ASSIGNEE, its successors and assigns.

Further, the ASSIGNOR(S) agree(s) to communicate to said ASSIGNEE, or its representatives, any facts known to the ASSIGNOR(S) respecting said invention, and testify in any legal proceedings, sign all lawful papers, execute all divisional, continuation, substitute, renewal, re-examination and reissue applications, execute all necessary assignment papers to cause any and all Letters Patent to be issued to said ASSIGNEE, make all rightful oaths and generally do everything necessary or desirable to aid said ASSIGNEE, its successors and assigns, to obtain and enforce proper protection for said invention.

Hirofumi Taketau

(Signature of sole or first inventor)

10, 11, 2000  
(Date)

Masaya Yamamoto

(Signature of second inventor)

10, 11, 2000  
(Date)

Keiji Ozumi

(Signature of third inventor)

10, 11, 2000  
(Date)

Shuntaro Sudo

(Signature of fourth inventor)

10, 11, 2000  
(Date)



**PATENT APPLICATION/PCT**

Serial No. 09/787,998

Atty. Docket No. 2204-002012

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Group Art Unit 3751

In re application of  
**Hirofumi TAKETSU et al.**

Serial No. 09/787,998

Filed March 23, 2001

:  
:  
:  
:  
:  
:

**ALUMINUM-PLATED STEEL  
SHEET FOR FUEL TANK AND  
PROCESS FOR PRODUCING  
FUEL TANK FROM THE STEEL  
SHEET**

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
February 5, 2002

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98,  
Applicants hereby submit this Information Disclosure Statement, which includes a  
completed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the references cited are enclosed.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited  
with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an  
envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington,  
D.C. 20231 on February 5, 2002.

Polly J. Moyles

(Name of Registered Representative)

*Polly J. Moyles*

Signature

2/5/02  
Date

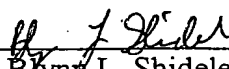
Japanese publication 09142466 discloses a rust-proof steel plate for a fuel tank. Japanese publication 10193507 discloses a steel plate for a fuel tank with rust prevention. Japanese publication 06306637 discloses a rust preventative steel sheet for a fuel tank. Japanese publication 09053166 discloses a rust preventative steel sheet for a fuel tank. Japanese publication 10272582 discloses a seam welding method for a fuel tank made of aluminum based plated plate. Japanese publication 62120494 discloses a rust preventing steel sheet for fuel tank. Japanese publication 57041396 discloses the production of PB-SN alloy plated steel plate. Japanese abstract JP53-19981A discloses a steel sheet coated with chromate films and is discussed in the specification.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), no fee is believed to be due for the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement as it is being submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. However, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-0650. One (1) original and two (2) copies of this Information Disclosure Statement are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

WEBB ZIESENHEIM LOGSDON  
ORKIN & HANSON, P.C.

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FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY. DOCKET NO.  
2204-002012SERIAL NO.  
09/787,998INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANTAPPLICANT(S)  
Hirofumi TAKETSU et al.

(Use several sheets if necessary)

FILING DATE  
3/23/01GROUP  
ART UNIT 3751

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
													YES	NO
	AL	09	1	4	2	4	6	6	6/3/97	JAPAN	B65D	8/00		
	AM	10	1	9	3	5	0	7	7/28/98	JAPAN	B32B	15/08		
	AN	06	3	0	6	6	3	7	11/1/94	JAPAN	C23C	28/00		
	AO	09	0	5	3	1	6	6	2/25/97	JAPAN	C23C	2/12		
	AP	10	2	7	2	5	8	2	10/13/98	JAPAN	B23K	11/16		

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AQ	Abstract of Japanese Patent No. JP53-19981A, "Steel Sheet Coated with Chromate Films Differentiated in Thickness", 5 pp.
	AR	
	AS	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FORM PTO-159 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY. DOCKET NO.  
2204-002012SERIAL NO.  
09/787,998INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANTAPPLICANT(S)  
Hirofumi TAKETSU et al.

(Use several sheets if necessary)

FILING DATE  
3/23/01GROUP  
ART UNIT 3751

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA												
	AB												
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	AE												
	AF												
	AG												
	AH												
	AJ												
	AJ												
	AK												

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
													YES	NO
	AL	62	1	2	0	4	9	4	6/1/87	JAPAN	C25D	11/38		
	AM	57	0	4	1	3	9	6	3/8/82	JAPAN	C25D	5/12		
	AN													
	AO													
	AP													

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AQ													
	AR													
	AS													

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP99/05727

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int.Cl<sup>6</sup> B65D25/34,  
C23C28/00,  
B32B15/08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl<sup>6</sup> B65D23/00-25/56  
C23C28/00  
B32B15/08

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1926-1999 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-1999  
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-1999

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X A	JP, 9-142466, A (Nisshin Steel Co., Ltd.), 03 June, 1997 (03.06.97) (Family: none)	1, 2, 5-7 3, 4, 8
X A	JP, 10-193507, A (Nisshin Steel Co., Ltd.), 28 July, 1998 (28.07.98) (Family: none)	1, 2, 5-7 3, 4, 8
X A	JP, 6-306637, A (Nippon Steel Corporation), 01 November, 1994 (01.11.94) (Family: none)	1, 2, 5-7 3, 4, 6, 8
X A	JP, 9-53166, A (Nippon Steel Corporation), 25 February, 1997 (25.02.97) (Family: none)	1, 2, 5.7 3, 4, 6, 8
X A	JP, 10-272582, A (Nippon Steel Corporation), 13 October, 1998 (13.10.98) & WO, 9804760, A1 & AU, 3707797, A1 & EP, 916746, A1	1, 2, 5.7 3, 4, 6, 8

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention  
"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone  
"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art  
"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search  
09 November, 1999 (09.11.99)

Date of mailing of the international search report  
24 November, 1999 (24.11.99)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/  
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

Application No. 09/787,998  
Paper Dated: February 5, 2004  
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of November 6, 2003  
Attorney Docket No. 2204-002012



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 09/787,998  
Applicants : Hirofumi Taketsu et al.  
Filed : March 23, 2001  
Title : FUEL TANK MADE FROM ALUMINUM  
COATED STEEL SHEET  
Group Art Unit : 2661  
Confirmation No. : 1204  
Examiner : Steven Blount

MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of November 6, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 5, 2004.

Florence P. Trevethan  
(Name of Person Mailing Paper)

Florence P. Trevethan 02/05/2004  
Signature Date

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### Listing of Claims

5 Claim 1 (currently amended): A fuel tank having improved durability and corrosion-resistance properties made from an Al coated steel sheet having an alkali-soluble resin film directly formed on a surface of said Al-coated steel sheet wherein the alkali-soluble resin film is a protective film for providing at least anti-scratching properties, ~~wherein the alkali-soluble resin film~~ and is removable from the surface of said Al-coated steel sheet after press-forming to a final shape, and wherein the resin film is having an acid value of 40-90 and containing carboxyl groups, wherein 1-50% hydrogen atoms in the carboxyl groups being substituted with alkali metal, and the resin film being soluble in an alkali liquid of pH 9.0 or higher and has a carboxyl group in its molecule with an acid value of 40-90.

Claims 2-4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (previously presented): The fuel tank made from an Al coated steel sheet defined in claim 1, wherein the alkali-soluble resin is urethane.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The fuel tank made from an Al coated steel sheet defined in claim 1, wherein the resin film is mixed with 1-25 mass % a powdery synthetic resin.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The fuel tank made from an Al coated steel sheet defined in claim 1, wherein the resin film has a thickness of 0.2-5.0  $\mu\text{m}$  formed on the fuel tank made from an Al coated steel sheet.

Claim 8 (cancelled).